



⑫

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

⑬ Application number : 94307192.8

⑮ Int. Cl.⁶ : H04N 5/926, G11B 20/10,
H04L 1/00

⑭ Date of filing : 30.09.94

⑯ Priority : 30.09.93 JP 245430/93

⑰ Inventor : Shimoda, Kenji, c/o Intellectual
Property Div.
Toshiba Corporation,
1-1-1, Shiba-ura
Minato-ku, Tokyo (JP)

⑯ Date of publication of application :
05.04.95 Bulletin 95/14

⑰ Representative : Muir, Ian R. et al
HASELTINE LAKE & CO.
Hazlitt House
28 Southampton Buildings
Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1AT (GB)

⑯ Designated Contracting States :
DE FR GB NL

⑯ Applicant : KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA
72, Horikawa-cho
Saiwai-ku
Kawasaki-shi Kanagawa-ken 210 (JP)

⑯ Packet conversion apparatus and system.

⑯ A packet conversion apparatus includes a detector for detecting heads of transmission packet signals, a packetizer responsive to the detecting means for packetizing the transmission packet signals by sequentially arranging them into one or more recording packets to specify positions of the prescribed number of transmission packets for one or more recording packets, a source for supplying reserved data, and a combiner for inserting the reserved data into a space of the recording packets where no transmission packet signals present.

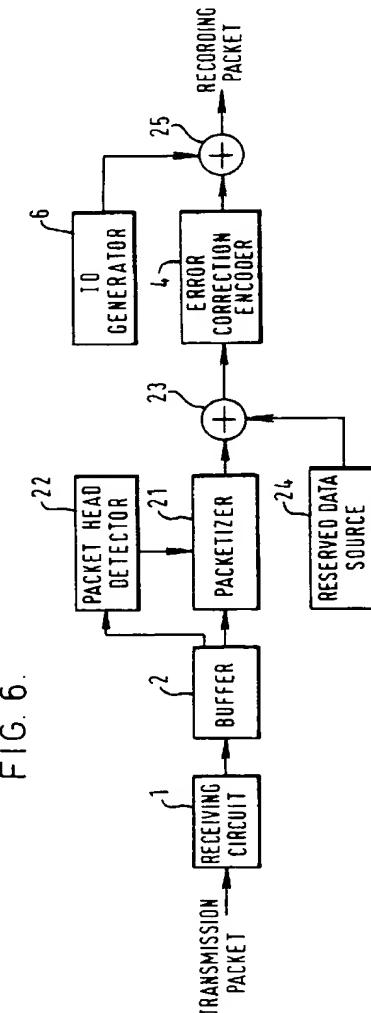


FIG. 6.

The present invention relates to a packet conversion apparatus and a packet conversion system, and more particularly to packet conversion apparatus and system suited for use in a recording reproducing apparatus for recording transmission packet signals by converting the transmission packet format into a prescribed recording packet format.

In a data communication field, a packet communication system which transmits information by breaking the information into blocks and adding additional information for identifying data has been so far adopted. In the digital visual communication, it is also attempted to transmit compressed image data by packetizing.

FIGURES 1 and 2 are explanatory diagrams showing exemplified formats of transmission packets.

FIGURE 1 shows an example of the transmission packet for use in transmission of data packets $m, m+1, m+2, \dots$ by sequentially arranging, but without synchronizing them with a prescribed sync signal. Each packet comprises a header(H) for use in identifying data in the packet, transmission data and an error correction parity (P) for use in correcting errors in the packet.

On the other hand, FIGURE 2 shows an example of transmission packet for use in transmission of packets M in synchronism with, for instance, a reference cycle of frames, etc, of video signals. In FIGURE 2, one frame is comprised of k packets of data corresponding to respective columns, and each data of the k packets is comprised of a header H, transmission data and an error correction parity P. Further, the header H1 of the first packet ($M = 1$) also serves as the header for use in identifying an entire data of the k packets in the n-th frame. Further, the volume of header may vary according to its column position M.

By the way, the volume of these packets and the recording unit of a recording apparatus may differ from each other. In this case, packet data are recorded by converting into a recording format. For instance, the Japanese Patent Application Tokkai-Hei 4-86181 titled as Recording Reproducing Apparatus discloses that transmitted packets are converted into recording packets with a recording format for VTRs. The recording packet disclosed in the Application Tokkai-Hei 4-86181 is comprised of a screen positional information MBA (Macro Block Address) and a sync block record start positional information MBP (Macro Block Pointer), both added into the transmission data in unit of a sync block.

FIGURES 3 and 4 are block diagrams showing the construction of the Japanese Patent Application titled as the Recording Reproducing Apparatus, while FIGURES 5(a), 5(b) and 5(c) are diagrams for explaining the recording packet disclosed in the Application.

FIGURE 3 is a block diagram showing another

conventional packet conversion apparatus associated with other conventional recording packets, as shown in FIGURES 5(a) and 5(b).

5 Transmission packet signals are supplied to a receiving circuit 1, and then transferred to a packetizer 3 via a buffer 2. The buffer 2 is used for adjusting timings of data processed in later stages. The packetizer 3 converts the transmission packet signal into another packet format signal suited for a recording system, e.g., VTRs.

10 The recording format of VTR is basically configured by unit of recording tracks, FIGURES 5(a), 5(b) and 5(c) show three types of recording formats each configured for one record track, wherein one track is comprised of M' pieces of packets. Each packet constitutes a sync block (sync unit).

15 FIGURE 5(a) shows an example of the recording track wherein transmission packet signals are sequentially arranged in the transmission order by the packetizer 3. That is, in this case, a header and transmission data contained in the transmission packets are arranged in the recording packet as in their original order. The recording packets configured in the packetizer 3 are applied to an error correction encoder 4. The error correction encoder 4 adds an error correction parity P into each of the recording packets and provides the resulted recording packets to a combiner 5. Further, an ID generator 6 generates ID data including a track number ID data, a sync number ID data and other important ID data, and supplies those ID data to the combiner 5. The combiner 5 combines a sync signal SYNC at the head of each recording packet, and then arranging the ID data, information data and the error correction parity P in the recording packet at a prescribed order.

20 Further, the recording packet shown in FIGURE 5(b) represents that the headers and the information data in the transmission packets are each divided in pieces in the recording packets, respectively. In this case, the information data contained in transmission packets are provided from the buffer 2 to the packetizer 3, while headers are provided from the buffer 2 to a header packetizer 8. The header packetizer 8 packetizes the headers and provided the resulted packets to another combiner 7. In this case, the headers are not yet contained in the output of the combiner 5. The combiner 7 arranges the information data and the headers individually and then provides the resulted recording packets.

25 40 45 50 55 50 By the way in the recording packet, as shown in FIGURE 5(a), wherein the transmission packet data are sequentially allocated, that is, all the data containing headers and parities of the transmission packets are continuously allocated, it is not possible to suppress the propagation of errors. For instance, if any error had occurred in a data within the packet, the error position will be found by an error flag. However, unless the sync signal for the transmission packet can

be surely detected, it is not possible to restore the original format of the transmission packets during its decoding operation. That is, the sync block in which an error had occurred falls in a same state as that the packet lacks some data. Further it becomes impossible to carry out a correction or an interpolation, etc., on the sync block. However when the detection of the sync signal is secured, it is possible to detect the head of the packet from data in which no errors occur.

Further, when data and a header are each divided into pieces, as shown in FIGURE 5(b), boundaries of data will become indefinite. Then, in the case where variable-length codes, etc., are adopted, the head position of a data portion having no errors cannot be detected and a propagation of errors becomes large likely to the case as shown in FIGURE 5(a).

So, in the conventional packet conversion apparatus as disclosed in the above-mentioned Japanese Application with the title of Recording Reproducing Apparatus, a method has been also disclosed for suppressing a propagation of errors even when variable length coded data are input as transmission data. Further, in the Application picture data are divided into luminance blocks and color difference blocks each having a prescribed volume, respectively, and further a macro block is constructed by a plurality of sub-blocks for using as a unit of predictive coding.

In FIGURE 4, transmission packet signals supplied to the receiving circuit 1 are then transferred to an MB (Macro Block) head detector 11 and a header packetizer 12 via the buffer 2. The MB head detector 11 transfers the transmission data to a data packetizer 13. The MB head detector 11 also detects the head of a macro block from the transmission data and then provides the macro block information to an MBA (Macro Block Address) generator 14. The data packetizer 13 packetizes information data and provides the packetized data to an MBP (Macro Block Pointer) generator 15 and a combiner 16.

The MBA generator 14 generates an MBA (Macro Block Address) showing an address on the screen to which the macro block corresponds and provides it to the combiner 16. Further, the MBP generator 15 generates an MBP (Macro Block Pointer) which is the head positional information in a sync block of the macro block and provides it to the combiner 16. The combiner 16 combines encoded data corresponding to respective screen areas following the macro block address and the macro block pointer and then provides it to the error correction encoder 4. The error correction parity P from the error correction encoder 4 and ID data from the ID generator 6 are arranged in another combiner 17. Thus, as shown in FIGURE 5(c), encoded data corresponding to respective screen areas are added with an error correction parity and arranged after the sync signal (SYNC), the ID data, the MBA (Macro Block Address) and the MBP (Macro Block Pointer) in unit of one sync block. Fur-

ther, the header packetizer 12 packetizes headers and give to still another combiner 18 for multiplexing with the output of the combiner 17. Recording track data are thus formed.

As described above, in this case, a propagation of errors is suppressed by extracting the screen positional information contained in transmission packets and recording two kinds of information, i.e., the screen positional information MBA indicating the correspondence between data and the screen, and the positional information MBP showing data positions in recording packets.

However, the apparatus shown in FIGURE 4 generates the MBA and the MBP by extracting additional information contained in transmission packets and there was such a problem that the circuit scale extremely increases.

As described above, on a conventional packet conversion apparatus, in order to suppress the propagation of errors, the positional information MBP and the screen positional information MBA are generated by extracting additional information contained in transmission packets when converting transmission packets into recording packets and there is such a problem that the circuit scale extremely increases.

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a packet conversion apparatus which is capable of suppressing propagation of errors and reducing the circuit scale.

In order to achieve the above object, a packet conversion apparatus according to one aspect of the present invention includes a detector for detecting heads of transmission packet signals, a packetizer responsive to the detecting means for packetizing the transmission packet signals by sequentially arranging them into one or more recording packets to specify positions of the prescribed number of transmission packets for one or more recording packets, a source for supplying reserved data, and a combiner for inserting the reserved data into a space of the recording packets where no transmission packet signals present.

In the present invention, the head detection means detects the head of transmission packets. The packetizing means packetizes the prescribed number of transmission packets by sequentially arranging them over one or more recording packets based on the detection result. As a result, the head of the prescribed number of transmission packets appears at, for instance, the head of one or more recording packets. The reserved data source supplies the reserved data or the dummy data into a portion of the recording packets, where no transmission packet has been arranged, and outputs the recording packets. Further, when arranging transmission packets continuously in recording packets in prescribed length, the head position of transmission packets on recording packets is detected and the positional information indicating the

head of the transmission packet signal on the recording packet is generated by the position detecting means. By inserting the positional information into a prescribed position on the recording packets by the inserting means, it becomes possible to find the correspondence between recording packets and transmission packets.

Additional objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent to persons skilled in the art from a study of the following description and the accompanying drawings, which are hereby incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification.

For a better understandings of the present invention and many of the attendant advantages thereof, reference will now be made by way of example to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a diagram for explaining one example of transmission packets;

FIGURE 2 is a diagram for explaining another example of transmission packets;

FIGURE 3 is a block diagram showing a conventional packet conversion apparatus;

FIGURE 4 is a block diagram showing another conventional packet conversion apparatus;

FIGURES 5(a), 5(b) and 5(c) are diagrams for explaining recording packets achieved by the conventional packet conversion apparatuses;

FIGURE 6 is a block diagram showing a first embodiment of a packet conversion apparatus according to the present invention;

FIGURE 7 is a diagram for explaining an example of recording packets achieved by the embodiment of FIGURE 6;

FIGURE 8 is a diagram for explaining another example of recording packets achieved by the embodiment of FIGURE 6;

FIGURE 9 is a diagram for explaining still another example of recording packets achieved by the embodiment shown in FIGURE 6;

FIGURE 10 is a block diagram showing a second embodiment of a packet conversion apparatus according to the present invention;

FIGURE 11 is a block diagram showing an exemplified construction of the memory of FIGURE 10;

FIGURE 12 is a block diagram showing a third embodiment of a packet conversion apparatus according to the present invention;

FIGURE 13 is a diagram for explaining an example of recording packets achieved by the embodiment of FIGURE 12; and

FIGURES 14 through 24 are diagrams for explaining modifications of the packet conversion according to the present invention.

The present invention will be described in detail with reference to the FIGURES 6 through 24.

FIGURE 6 is a block diagram showing a first embodiment of the packet conversion apparatus accord-

ing to the present invention.

Transmission packet signals are input to a receiving circuit 1. The receiving circuit 1 demodulates the transmission packet signals and transfers them to a buffer 2. The buffer 2 temporarily holds the demodulated transmission packet signals, and then provides them to a packetizer 21 and a packet head detector 22. The packet head detector 22 detecte the head of the transmission packet signals in search of headers of the transmission packets and then provides the resulted detection signal to the packetizer 21.

In this embodiment the packetizer 21 packetized n' pieces of transmission packet signals into N' ($N' \neq n'$) pieces of recording packets, based on the detection signal directing the head of transmission packets. For instance, if the length of transmission packets and the length of recording packets are in such a relationship as [the length of recording packets $\times 2$] $>$ [the length of transmission packets] $>$ [the length of recording packets]. The packetizer 21 packetizes the transmission packet signals in assuming that, for instance, $N' = 2$ and $n' = 1$. The packetizer 21 arranges transmission packet signals in series starting from its head. Accordingly, under the conditions, the transmission packet signals are arranged for the whole of the first recording packet and only the head of the second effective recording field of two recording packets and a portion with no transmission packets arranged will be produced in the trailing end of the second effective recording field.

The packetized recording format signals output from the packetizer 21 is applied to a combiner 23. An output of a reserved data source 24 is also applied to the combiner 23. The reserved data source 24 supplies reserved data or dummy data of, for instance, continued "1", etc. The combiner 23 selects the outputs of the packetizer 21 and the output of the reserved data source 24 by switching them at prescribed regular intervals and inserting the reserved data or the dummy data into a portion with no transmission packet arranged in the trailing end of the second recording packet, outputs the recording packet to the error correction encoder 4.

The error correction encoder 4 outputs each recording packet data by adding the error correction parity to another combiner 25. The ID generator 6 generates the sync signal (SYNC) and ID data of each recording packet and applies them to the combiner 25. The combiner 25 add the sync signal (SYNC) and ID data to the head of each recording packet and outputs as a recording packet.

Next, the operation of the embodiment in the construction as described above will be explained with reference to the explanatory diagram shown in FIGURE 7.

The receiving circuit 1 demodulates the transmission packet signals and transfers them to the packetizer 21 and the packet head detector 22 via the buffer

2. The header of the transmission packet contains the head position data. Further, the header may contain the information on screen position of data, etc. Therefore, if in this case the transmission packet signals have been continuously reproduced, it is possible to detect positions on the screen and also positions in the transmission packets by extracting the headers of the transmission packets. However, as the heads of the transmission packets are unknown, if an error is generated as described above, it is not necessarily possible to use transmission packets in demodulation even when the lengths of transmission packets are constant.

On the contrary, in this embodiment it is made possible to identify the transmission packet signals by identifying recording packets through the fixture of the correspondence of transmission packets to recording packets. That is, the packet head detector 22 detects the head of the transmission packet signal in search of the header contained in the transmission packet signal read from the buffer 2 and applies the detection signal to the packetizer 21. If [recording packet length x 2] > [transmission packet length] > [recording packet length], the packetizer 21 packetizes one transmission packet for two recording packets as shown in FIGURE 7. That is, the front parts of the transmission packets PT1, PT2, ... are sequentially arranged to the first recording packets PR11, PR21, ... starting from the head, and the remaining parts of the transmission packets PT1, PT2, ... are sequentially arranged to the recording packets PR12, PR22, ... Since [recording packet length x 2] > [transmission packet length] > [recording packet length], in the trailing ends (shown in the shaded regions) of the second recording packets PR12, PR22, portions with no transmission packets arranged will be produced. As a result of this packetizing, the n' pieces of the transmission packets are always arranged at prescribed positions of the N' pieces of the recording packets and the correspondence between the recording packets and the transmission packets will become clear.

The output of the packetizer 21 is applied to the combiner 23 and thus the reserved data or the dummy data from the reserved data source 24 are inserted in the recording packets at the timing of the shaded regions, as shown in FIGURE 7. The error correction encoder 4 applies the output of the combiner 23 with the error correction parity P added to the combiner 25. The output of the ID generator 6 is also applied to the combiner 25. The combiner 25 arranges the sync signal (SYNC) and ID data from the ID generator 6 at the head of the recording packets as shown in FIGURE 7 and outputs the recording packets.

As described above, the packetizer 21 packetizes one transmission packet signal over two recording packets in this embodiment. Accordingly, the head of a transmission packet signal will be arranged to every

other recording packet in this case. Therefore, even if an error is generated, it is possible to identify transmission packet signals after restored from the error from ID of recording packets and thus, a propagation of errors can be suppressed.

Further, in the above embodiment, values of N' and n' may be determined according to the relationship between the transmission packet length and the recording packet length. For instance, if the unused portions as shown in the shaded regions increase when it is set as shown in the example in FIGURE 7, two transmission packets PT1 and APT2 may be packetized over three recording packets PR1, PR2 and PR3.

Further, the embodiment described above is also applicable to cope with when a transmission packet length varies, FIGURE 9 shows examples of transmission packets transmitted in two kinds of length. In the examples shown in FIGURE 9, the packetizer 21 executes a mode for packetizing one transmission packet signal for two recording packets and a mode for packetizing one transmission packet signal for three recording packets by switching them.

FIGURE 10 is a block diagram showing a second embodiment of the present invention. In FIGURE 10, the same reference numerals used in FIGURE 6 will be used to designate like or equivalent elements and the explanation will be omitted.

In this embodiment, a memory is used for arranging transmission packet signals. That is, transmission packet signals from the receiving circuit 1 are applied to the packet head detector 22, and also to a memory 31. The memory 31 has a capacity for storing N' pieces of recording packets and holds the reserved data or the dummy data before transmission packets are input. A memory read controller 33 reads the n' pieces of the transmission packets stored in the memory 31, based on a detection signal from the packet head detector 22. The memory read controller 33 first reads the n' pieces of the transmission packets stored in the memory 31, and then reads the reserved data or the dummy data and provides them to the error correction encoder 4.

FIGURE 11 is a block diagram showing a definite construction of the memory 31 in FIGURE 10.

The memory 31 comprises three memories 31A, 31B and 31C which are recordable the N' pieces of the recording packets. The transmission packets are selectively provided from the receiving circuit 1 to the three memories 31A, 31B and 31C via a switch SW1. Further, the outputs of the memories 31A, 31B and 31C are output via a switch SW2. The switches SW1 and SW2 are controlled by the memory write controller 32 and the memory read controller 33, respectively.

Next, the operation of the embodiment in the construction as described above will be explained with reference to FIGURE 11.

Transmission packet signals are supplied to the receiving circuit 1 and then transferred to the packet head detector 22 and the memory 31. Before writing the transmission packets into the memory 31, the reserved data or the dummy data are written into the memory 31A. When a detection signal indicating the head of transmission packet is provided from the packet head detector 22, the memory write controller 32 makes the switch SW1 to select a terminal b and thus the n' pieces of the transmission packets are sequentially stored into the memory 31B. In this case, the memory read controller 33 makes the switch SW2 to select a terminal c and thus the data are stored into the memory 31C. As described later, the n' pieces of the transmission packets are already stored in the memory 31C.

When the n' pieces of transmission packet have been read from the memory 31C, the memory read controller 33 makes the switch SW2 to select a terminal a so as to read out the reserved data or the dummy data stored in the memory 31A. Thus, the same recording packets as the output of the combiner 23 shown in FIGURE 6 are obtained.

At the next timing, before writing the transmission packet signals into the memory 31, the reserved data or the dummy data are written into the memory 31C. Then, the memory write controller 32 makes the switch SW1 to select the terminal a so as to start the writing of the n' pieces of the transmission packets into the memory 31A, based on the detection signal from the packet head detector 22. On the other hand, the memory read controller 33 makes the switch SW2 to select the terminal b so as to read out the n' pieces of the transmission packets previously stored in the memory 31B. When completing the readout operation, the memory read controller 33 makes the switch SW2 to select the terminal a so as to read out the reserved data or the dummy data stored in the memory 31C.

Thereafter, repeating the same operation and shifting the writing operation and the reading operation of the transmission packets among the memories 31A, 31B and 31C, a plurality of recording packets with the same format, as shown in FIGURE 6, are obtained.

FIGURE 12 is a block diagram showing a third embodiment of the present invention. In FIGURE 12, reference numerals used in FIGURE 6 will be used to designate like or equivalent elements and the explanation will be omitted.

In this embodiment, the positional information showing the head of a transmission packet signal is recorded in respective recording packets for making it possible to suppress a propagation of errors even when the transmission packet signals are arranged in series.

Transmission packet signals read from the buffer 2 are applied to a packetizer 41. The packetizer 41

packetizes the transmission packet signals by continuously arranging them in their transmission order and then provides the resulted packets to a combiner 44 and a packet head detector 42. The packet head detector 42 detects positional information in recording packets, which indicates where the head of transmission packet signal is positioned and then provides the detected information to a position detector 43. The position detector 43 generates a positional information indicating the head position of the transmission packet signals in search of a distance from the head of the recording packet according to the detection information and then provides the detected positional information to another combiner 44. The combiner 44 locates the positional information from the position detector 43 on the head of the recording packet achieved by the packetizer 41 and then provides the resulted recording packets to the error correction encoder 4.

Next, the operation of the above embodiment as constructed as shown in FIGURE 12 will be explained with reference to FIGURE 13, FIGURE 13 is an explanatory diagram for explaining the recording packets achieved in this embodiment.

The transmission packet signals read from the buffer 2 are sequentially arranged by the packetizer 41, starting from the head of the recording packet. If the length of the transmission packet is longer than the length of the recording packet but shorter than the length of two recording packets, the transmission packet signal is arranged over two recording packets up to the middle of the second recording packet, as shown in FIGURE 13. The packet head detector 42 detects the heads of the transmission packet signals in the recording packets as marked by symbols (v) in FIGURE 13. Then the resulted detection information is applied to the position detector 43. The position detector 43 generates positional data S0, S1, S2, S3, SP, S4, ... indicating the heads of the transmission packet signals by the respective distances from the head of the recording packet. As shown in FIGURE 13, the combiner 44 adds the positional data on fronts of the recording tracks achieved by the packetizer 41. All other operations are the same as the above-mentioned embodiment of FIGURE 6.

The positional information S0 and S7 added to the fronts of the first and tenth recording packets, as shown in FIGURE 13, indicate that the heads of the corresponding transmission packet signals also define the heads of the recording packets. Further, the positional information Sp indicates that the its associated recording packet signal does not include any head of the transmission packet signal.

As described above, in this embodiment, as the positional information of the head of the transmission packet signal is added to every recording packet, it is easy to find the correspondence between recording packets and transmission packets. Therefore, for in-

stance, even when a recording packet drops out by errors, it becomes easy to identify transmission packet signals and also to troubleshoot the VTRs.

The present invention is not limited to the embodiments as described above, but a variety of modifications will be devised. Here some of the modifications will be described in reference to the drawings FIGURES 14 through 24.

FIGURE 14 shows a first modification of the packet conversion system according to the present invention. In this first modification it is assumed that the transmission packet has the volume of 113 bytes. Then the first one byte on the head of the transmission packet is assigned a synch signal with a fixed pattern for use in the transmission. As shown in FIGURE 14, the volume of respective recording packet is set to 90 bytes length. On the head of each of the recording packets 2 fields, i.e., a field of recording/reproduction sync signal with 2 bytes volume and a field of ID signal with 5 bytes volume are located. The first 3 bytes of the ID signal are associated with the recording packet, while the remaining 2 bytes of the ID signal are associated with the transmission packet. In the 90 bytes length recording packet, 75 bytes constitute an effective recording field, and the trailing end 8 bytes are provided for a parity field. As the transmission sync signal is of the fixed pattern, and thus the synch signal is fine to introduce in the reproducing operation, the 112 bytee data volume of the transmission signal of the transmission packet but without the synch signal is recorded in the recording packet.

A part of the transmission signal exceeding the volume of the effective recording field of one recording packet is recorded on the effective recording field of the next recording packet. That is, the trailing end 37 (= 112 - 75) bytes data volume of the first transmission packet is not recorded on the first recording packet, but recorded on the leading end of the second recording packet. Then although the leading end 37 bytes data volume of the second transmission signal is recorded on the trailing end of the second recording packet, a 1 byte volume of reserved data field, e.g., a dummy data field is allocated between the first and second transmission signals. The remaining part of the second transmission signal, i.e., the trailing end 75 (= 112 - 37) bytes data volume of the second transmission signal is recorded on the third recording packet.

In the first modification as described above, the transmission signals of the 2 transmission packets are recorded over 3 recording packets, while introducing the reserved data field or the dummy data field for use in identifying the boundary of the succeeding two transmission signals.

FIGURE 15 shows a second modification of the packet conversion system according to the present invention. In this second modification, although the packet conversion system is principally the same as

that of the first modification, as seen from the comparison of FIGURES 14 and 15, the reserved data field is allocated on the tail end of the effective recording field of the third recording packet, in different from the first modification.

FIGURE 16 shows a third modification of the packet conversion system according to the present invention. As the transmission synch signal assigned on the head of the transmission packet is of a fixed pattern, shown in FIGURE 16, and thus the synch signal is fine to introduce in the reproducing operation, the 112 bytes data volume of the transmission signal of the transmission packet but without the synch signal is recorded in the recording packet. The volume of respective effective recording field of the recording packet is set to the 90 bytes length. On the head of each of the recording packets 2 fields, i.e., a field of recording/reproduction sync signal with 2 bytes and a field of ID signal with 4 bytes are located. The first 3 bytes of the ID signal are associated with the recording packet, while remaining 1 byte of the ID signal is associated with the transmission packet. In the 90 bytes length recording packet, 75 bytes constitute an effective recording field, and the trailing end 8 bytes are provided for a parity field. Further 1 byte volume of another parity data is allocated in front of the 8 bytes volume of the parity field. In similar to the first modification, transmission signals on two transmission packets are recorded on three recording packets. Then a 1 byte volume of reserved data field, e.g., a dummy data field is allocated between the first and second transmission signals.

FIGURE 17 shows a fourth modification of the packet conversion system according to the present invention. In this modification the conversion system same as the above three modifications is also adapted. As shown in FIGURE 7, the 76 bytes data volume of each recording packet is assigned to the effective recording field, while 2 bytes data volume of recording/reproduction synch signal and 4 bytes data volume of ID signal are allocated on the head portion of the recording packet in the order. The first 3 bytes of the ID signal are associated with the recording packet, while remaining 1 byte of the ID signal is associated with the transmission packet.

The 36 bytes data on the trailing end of the transmission packet, which is the excess of the volume of the effective recording field of the first recording packet, is recorded on the effective recording field of the next recording packet. Further a 2 bytes data volume of additional parity is positioned in the reserved data field or the dummy data field on the trail end of each transmission packet signal for use in detecting and correcting errors in each of the transmission packet signals. Then the signals in the second transmission packet is recorded over the trailing end 8 bytes volume of the second recording packet and the leading end 74 bytes volume of the third recording

packet. Thus a 2 bytes data volume of additional parity is positioned in the reserved data field or the dummy data field assigned to the second transmission packet signal.

FIGURE 18 shows a fifth modification of the packet conversion system according to the present invention. In this modification the reserved data field or the dummy data field is used as an additional ID signal field for identifying transmission packets.

FIGURE 19 shows a sixth modification of the packet conversion system according to the present invention. In this modification the 112 bytes data of each transmission packet signal are successively recorded over a plurality of recording packets. Then a 1 byte volume of reserved data field or dummy data field is assigned on the head portion of the first transmission packet signal. Further the reserved data field or the dummy data field is used for allocating thereon an additional ID signal.

FIGURE 20 shows a seventh modification of the packet conversion system according to the present invention. In this modification the transmission synch signal in each transmission packet is recorded on the recording packet in different from the above-described modifications where the transmission synch signals are not recorded on the recording packets. That is, the entire of the 113 bytes data volume of the transmission packet signal is recorded on the recorded packet.

The volume of respective recording packet is set to the 90 bytes length. On the head of each of the recording packets 2 fields, i.e., a field of recording/reproduction sync signal with 2 bytes and a field of ID signal with 4 bytes are located. The first 3 bytes of the ID signal are associated with the recording packet, while the remaining 1 byte of the ID signal is associated with the transmission packet. The 37 bytes data on the trailing end of the transmission packet, which is the excess of the 76 bytes volume of the effective recording field of the first recording packet, is recorded on the effective recording field of the next recording packet. Then the second transmission packet signal is recorded over the trailing end 39 bytes volume of the second recording packet and the leading end 74 bytes volume of the third recording packet. Thus a 2 bytes data volume of reserved data field or dummy data field is assigned to the trail end of the second transmission packet signal.

FIGURE 21 shows an eighth modification of the packet conversion system according to the present invention. In this modification the entire of the 113 bytes volume of the transmission packet signal is recorded over a plurality of recording packets in similar to the embodiment of FIGURE 19. Further 2 bytes volume of reserved data field or dummy data field is assigned on the recording packet, but divided one by one in a manner that each one byte of the reserved data field or the dummy data field is positioned on the

trail end of each transmission packet signal. Then the reserved data field or the dummy data field is used as a parity signal for its corresponding transmission packet signal.

FIGURE 22 shows a ninth modification of the packet conversion system according to the present invention. In this modification every one transmission packet signal is recorded over two recording packets, as shown in FIGURE 22. Further in this modification the transmission synch signal in each transmission packet is recorded on the recording packet in similar to the above-described seventh and eighth embodiments. Thus the entire of the 113 bytes data volume of the transmission packet signal is recorded on the recorded packet, also in similar to the above two embodiments.

The volume of respective recording packet is set to the 90 bytes length. On the head of each of the recording packets 2 fields, i.e., a field of recording/reproduction sync signal with 2 bytes and a field of ID signal with 5 bytes are located. The first 3 bytes of the ID signal are associated with the recording packet, while the remaining 2 bytes of the ID signal are associated with the transmission packet. The volume of respective effective recording field of the recording packet is set to the 75 bytes length. The leading end 74 bytes of the first transmission packet signal are recorded on the effective recording field of the first recording packet, while the remaining 74 bytes of the first transmission packet signal are recorded on the head portion of the effective recording field of the second recording packet. Then the remaining 36 bytes field of the effective recording field of the second recording packet is assigned for reserved data field or dummy data field.

In the first through ninth modifications, as shown in FIGURES 14 through 22, the volumes of the transmission packet and the recording packet are set to the 113 bytes length and the 90 bytes length, respectively. However, the present invention can be also carried out by altering the volume of either or both of the transmission packet and the recording packet, as shown in the following two additional embodiments, without limited to the above embodiments.

FIGURE 23 shows a tenth modification of the packet conversion system according to the present invention. In this modification the volume of the transmission packet is set to the 188 bytes length, like to the MPEG transport packet. While the volume of the recording packet is set to the 90 bytes length like the above embodiments. Then the first one byte on the head of the transmission packet is assigned a synch signal with a fixed pattern for use in the transmission.

In this modification the 187 bytes data volume of transmission signal of the transmission packet but without the head portion 1 byte volume synch signal is recorded in the recording packet, in similar to the fourth embodiment as shown in FIGURE 17. Further

reserved data field or dummy data field is assigned at a portion next to the trail end of each of the transmission packet signals. Then the reserved data field or the dummy data field is used as an additional parity signal.

As shown in FIGURE 23, the first 76 bytes data of the first transmission packet signal is recorded on the first recording packet. The next 76 bytes data of the first transmission packet signal is recorded on the second recording packet. Then the remaining 35 bytes data of the first transmission packet signal is recorded on the leading end of the effective recording field of the third recording packet. Next the first 38 bytes data of the second transmission packet signal is recorded on the trailing end of the effective recording field of the third recording packet, but spaced from the last 35 bytes data of the first transmission packet signal by the 3 bytes volume reserved data field or the dummy data field. The next 76 bytes data of the second transmission packet signal is recorded on the fourth recording packet. Then the remaining 73 bytes data of the second transmission packet signal is recorded on the leading end of the effective recording field of the fifth recording packet in leaving a space at the trailing end of the effective recording field of the fifth recording packet. Then the space is assigned for the other 3 bytes volume reserved data field or the dummy data field.

FIGURE 24 shows an eleventh modification of the packet conversion system according to the present invention. In this modification the volume of the transmission packet is also set to the 188 bytes length, like to the MPEG transport packet. While the volume of the recording packet is set to the 90 bytes length like the above first through ninth embodiments. Then the first one byte on the head of the transmission packet is assigned a synch signal with a fixed pattern for use in the transmission.

In this modification the entire of the 188 bytes data volume of transmission signal of the transmission packet including the head portion 1 byte volume synch signal is recorded in the recording packet, in similar to the seventh embodiment as shown in FIGURE 20. Further reserved data field or dummy data field is assigned at a portion next to the trail end of each of the transmission packet signals. Then the reserved data field or the dummy data field is used as an additional parity signal.

As shown in FIGURE 23, the first 76 bytes data of the first transmission packet signal is recorded on the first recording packet. The next 76 bytes data of the first transmission packet signal is recorded on the second recording packet. Then the remaining 36 bytes data of the first transmission packet signal is recorded on the leading end of the effective recording field of the third recording packet. Next the first 38 bytes data of the second transmission packet signal is recorded on the trailing end of the effective record-

ing field of the third recording packet, but spaced from the last 36 bytes data of the first transmission packet signal by the 2 bytes volume reserved data field or the dummy data field. The next 76 bytes data of the second transmission packet signal is recorded on the fourth recording packet. Then the remaining 74 bytes data of the second transmission packet signal is recorded on the leading end of the effective recording field of the fifth recording packet in leaving a space at the trailing end of the effective recording field of the fifth recording packet. Then the space is assigned for the other 2 bytes volume reserved data field or the dummy data field.

15 [0051]

As described above, the present invention can provide an extremely preferable packet conversion apparatus and its system, having the effect of that such a propagation of errors can be suppressed and also that the circuit scale can be reduced.

While there have been illustrated and described what are at present considered to be preferred embodiments of the present invention, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made, and equivalents may be substituted for elements thereof without departing from the true scope of the present invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation or material to the teaching of the present invention without departing from the central scope thereof. Therefor, it is intended that the present invention not be limited to the particular embodiment disclosed as the best mode contemplated for carrying out the present invention, but that the present invention includes all embodiments falling within the scope of the appended claims.

The foregoing description and the drawings are regarded by the applicant as including a variety of individually inventive concepts, some of which may lie partially or wholly outside the scope of some or all of the following claims. The fact that the applicant has chosen at the time of filing of the present application to restrict the claimed scope of protection in accordance with the following claims is not to be taken as a disclaimer or alternative inventive concepts that are included in the contents of the application and could be defined by claims differing in scope from the following claims, which different claims may be adopted subsequently during prosecution, for example, for the purposes of a divisional application.

Claims

55 1. A packet conversion apparatus comprising:
means for detecting heads of transmission
packet signals;

means responsive to the detecting means for packetizing the transmission packet signals by sequentially arranging them into one or more recording packets to specify positions of the prescribed number of transmission packets for one or more recording packets;

a source for supplying a reserved data; and

means for inserting the reserved data into a space of the recording packets where no transmission packet signals present.

2. A packet conversion apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the packetizing means and the reserved data inserting means include each a storage device having a capacity capable of recording one or more recording packets with the reserved data inserted therein according to a controlled write/read operation for the prescribed number of transmission packets and the reserved data.

3. A packet conversion apparatus comprising:

means for packetizing transmission packet data into recording packets each having a prescribed data-length so as that the transmission packet data are continuously arranged in the recording packets;

means for detecting the head of the transmission packet data in the recording packets;

means responsive to the detecting means for generating positional information representing the head of the transmission packet data in the recording packet; and

means for inserting the positional information into a prescribed position of the recording packet.

4. A packet conversion system comprising the steps of:

detecting heads of transmission packet signals;

packetizing in response to the detection of the heads for the transmission packet signals by sequentially arranging them into one or more recording packets to specify positions of the prescribed number of transmission packets for one or more recording packets;

supplying a reserved data; and

inserting the reserved data into a space of the recording packets where no transmission packet signals present.

5. A packet conversion system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the packetizing step and the reserved data inserting step are each carried out using a storage device having a capacity capable of recording one or more recording packets with the reserved data inserted therein according to a controlled write/read operation for the prescribed number of transmission packets and the reserved data.

6. A packet conversion system comprising the steps of:

packetizing transmission packet data into recording packets each having a prescribed data-length so as that the transmission packet data are continuously arranged in the recording packets;

detecting the head of the transmission packet data in the recording packets;

generating in response to the detection stop positional information representing the head of the transmission packet data in the recording packet; and

inserting the positional information into a prescribed position of the recording packet.

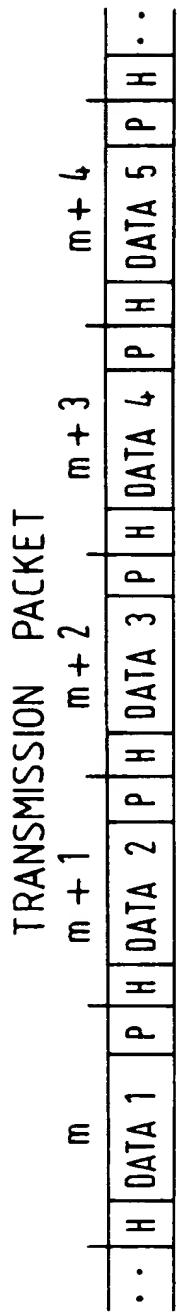


FIG. 1.

FIG. 2. TRANSMISSION PACKET

n-TH FLAME

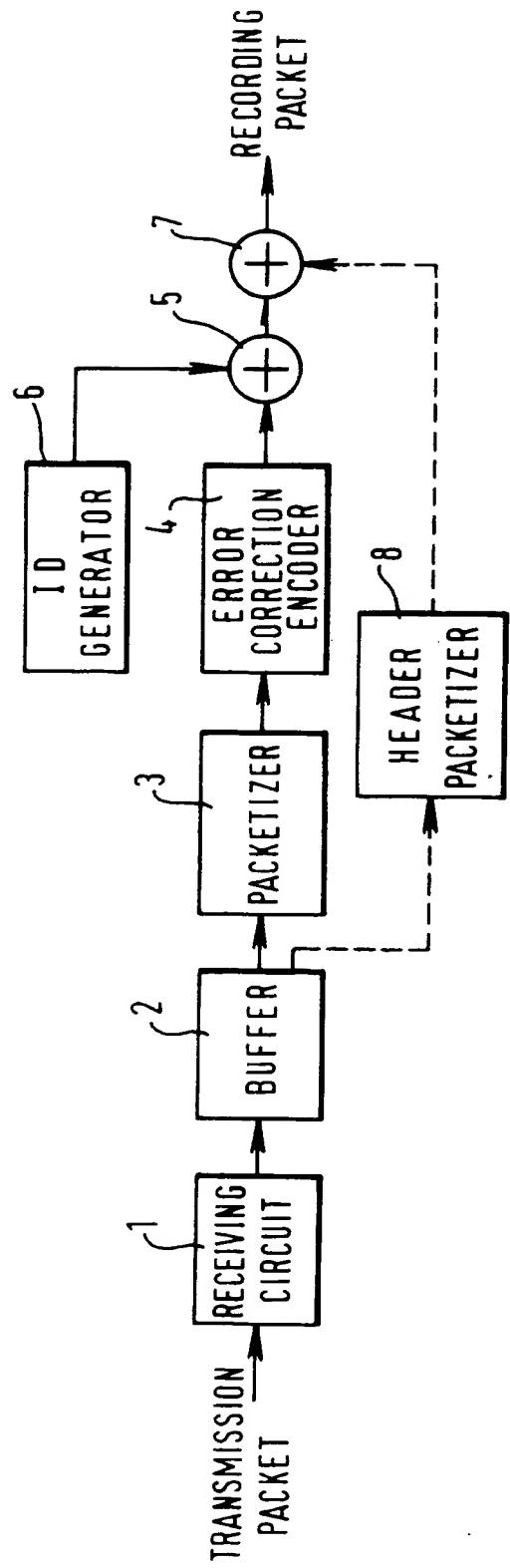
M = 1	H 1	DATA 1	P 1
M = 2	H 2	DATA 2	P 1
M = 3	H 3	DATA 3	P 1
M = 4	H 4	DATA 4	P 1
M = 5	H 5	DATA 5	P 1

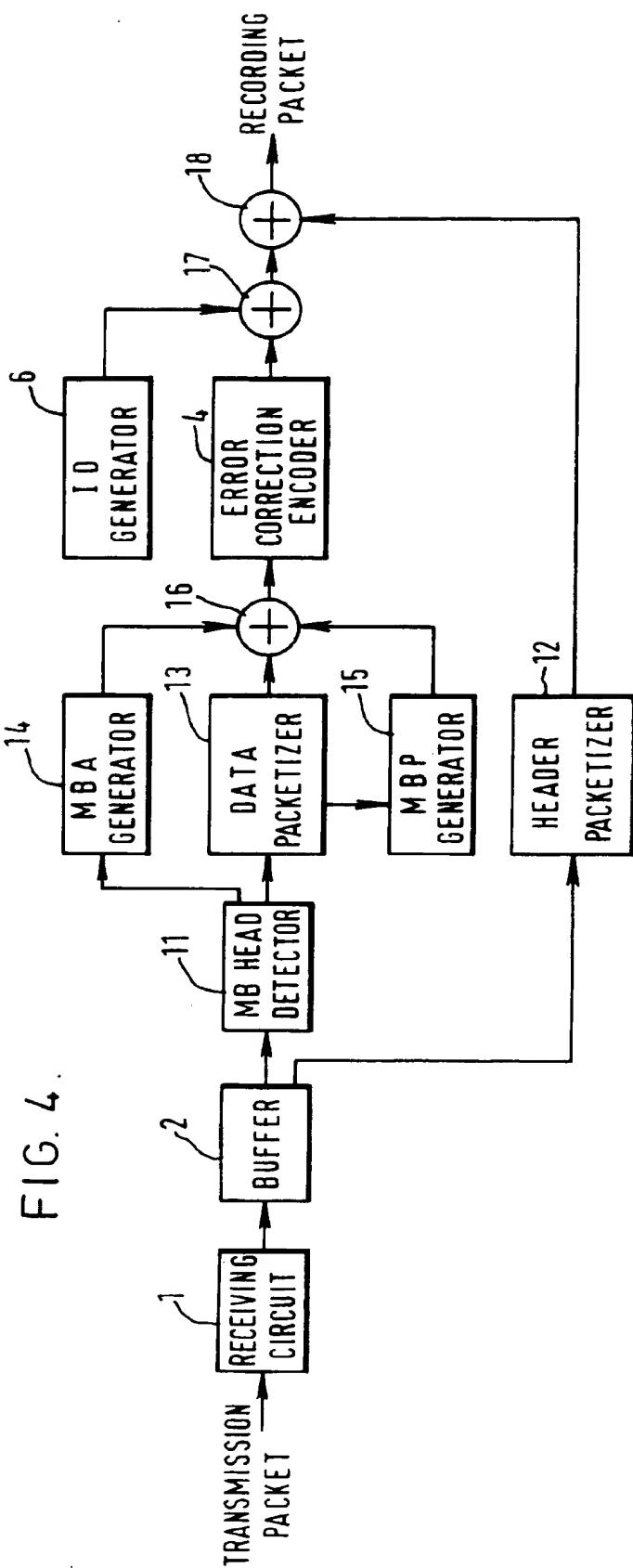
~~~~~

|         |      |          |     |
|---------|------|----------|-----|
| M = k-3 | Hk-3 | DATA k-3 | P 1 |
| M = k-2 | Hk-2 | DATA k-2 | P 1 |
| M = k-1 | Hk-1 | DATA k-1 | P 1 |
| M = k   | Hk   | DATA k   | P 1 |

~~~~~

FIG. 3





RECORD TRACK

M = 1	SYNC	ID	DATA		P
-------	------	----	------	--	---

FIG. 5(a)

RECORD TRACK

M = 2	SYNC	ID	DATA	DATA	DATA	P
M = 3	SYNC	ID	DATA	DATA	DATA	P

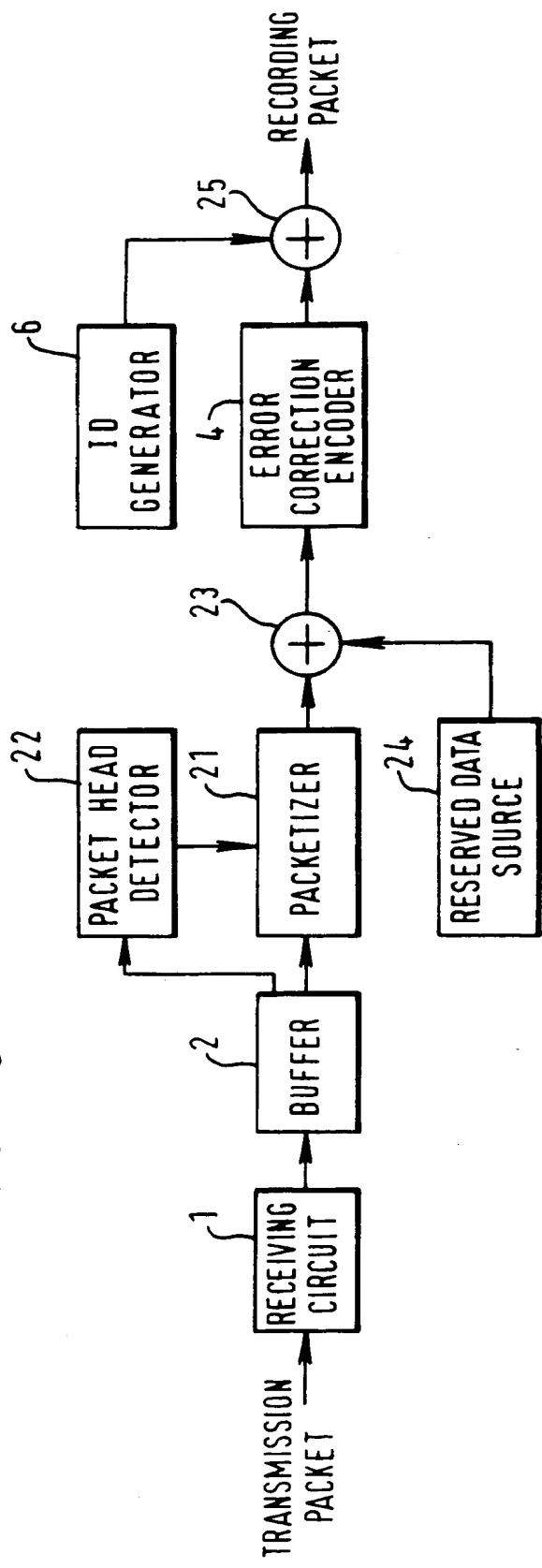
FIG. 5(b)

RECORD TRACK

M = 4	SYNC	ID	MBA	MBP	DATA	P
M = 5	SYNC	ID	MBA	MBP	DATA	P
M = 6	SYNC	ID	MBA	MBP	DATA	P
M = 7	SYNC	ID	MBA	MBP	DATA	P

FIG. 5(c)

FIG. 6.



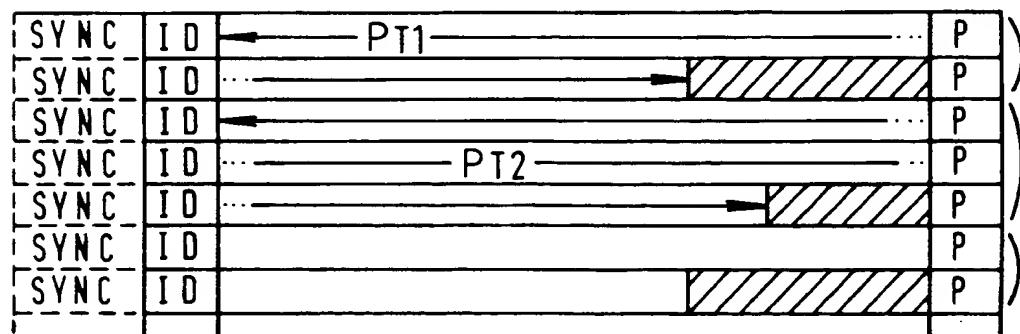
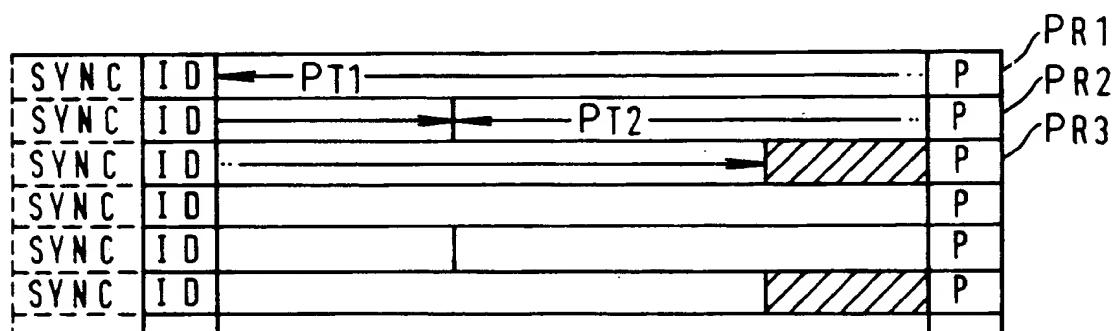
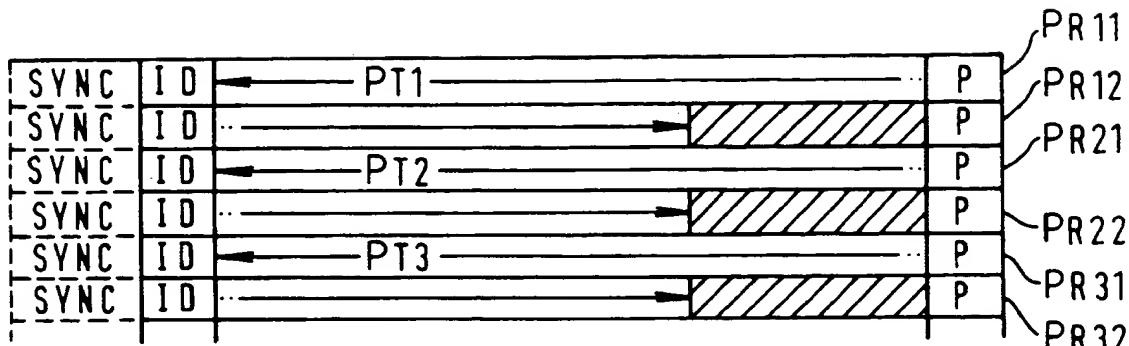


FIG. 10.

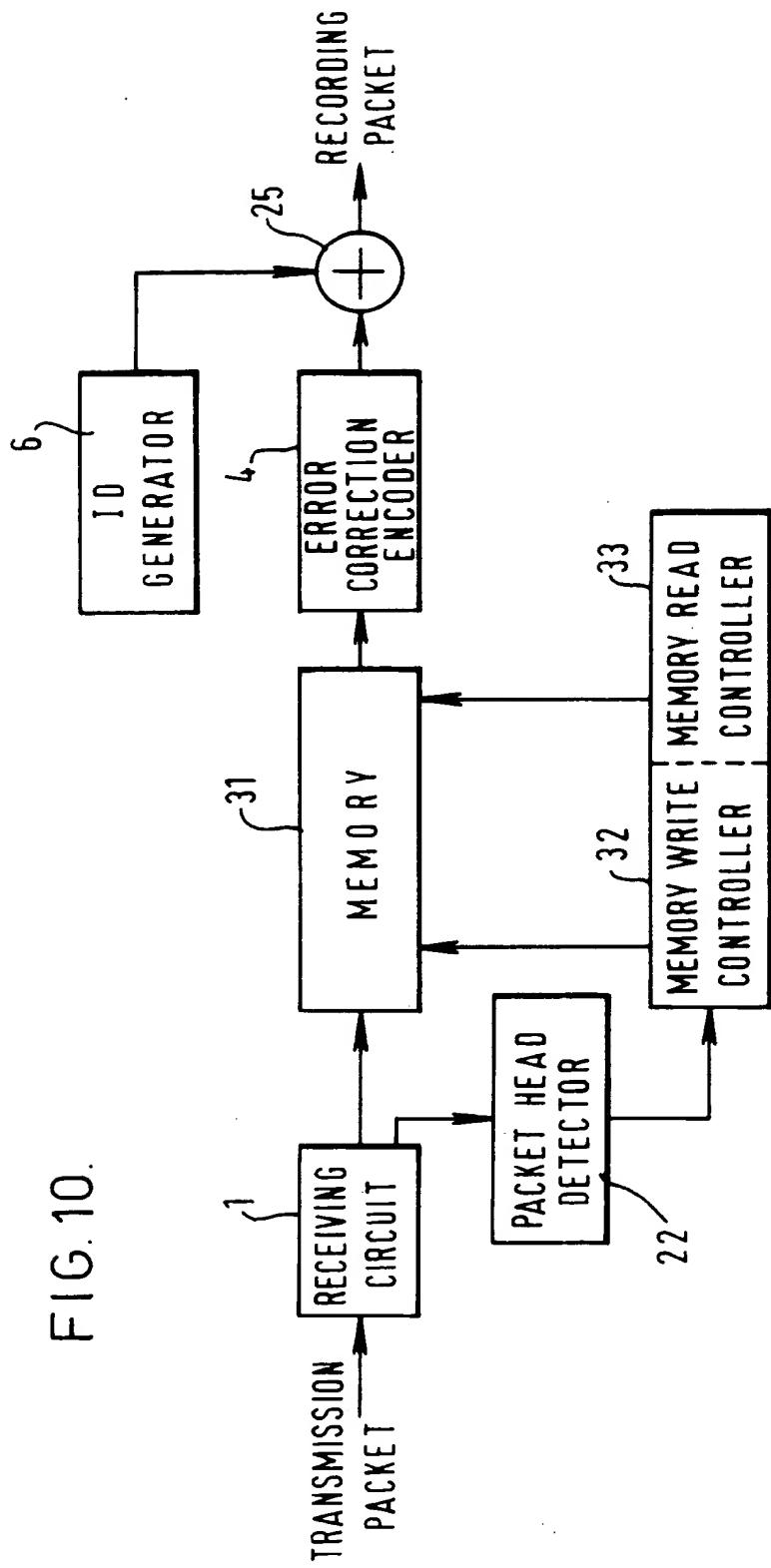
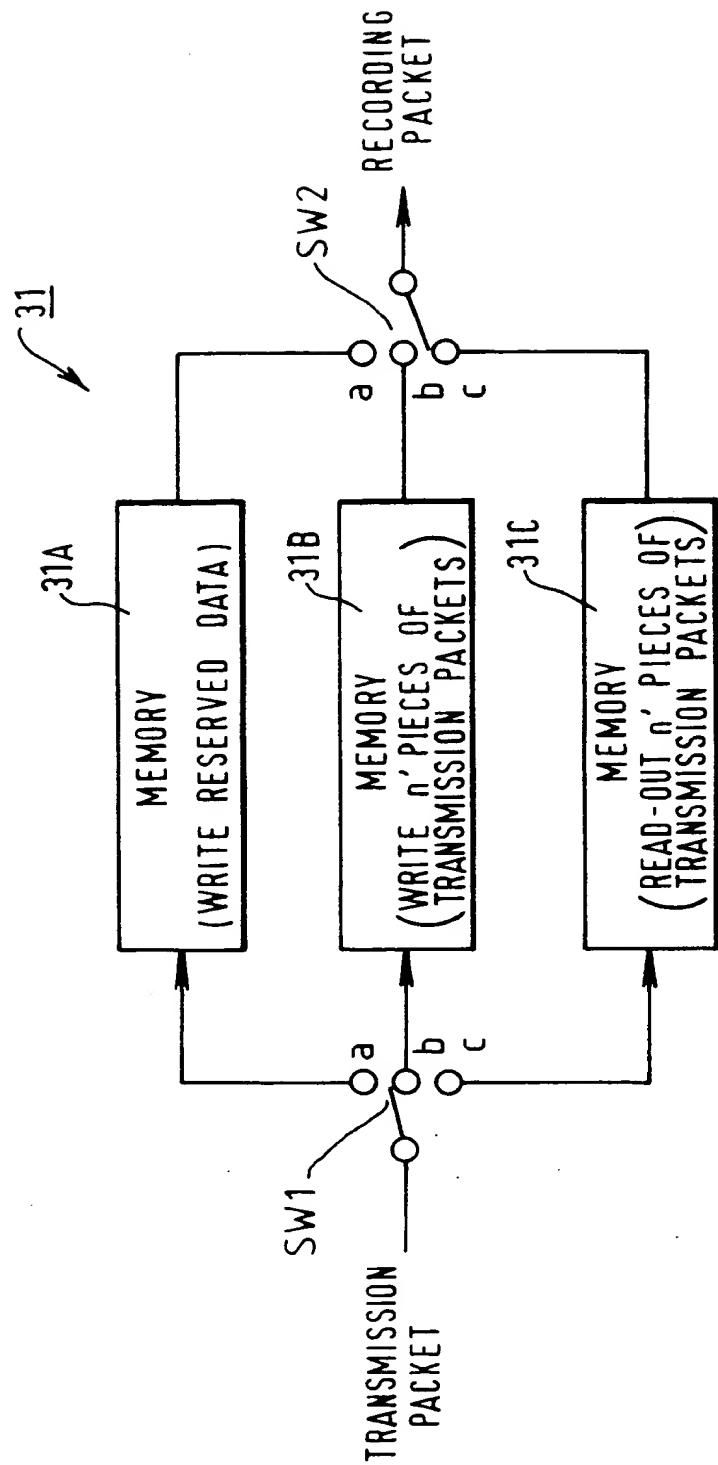


FIG. 11.



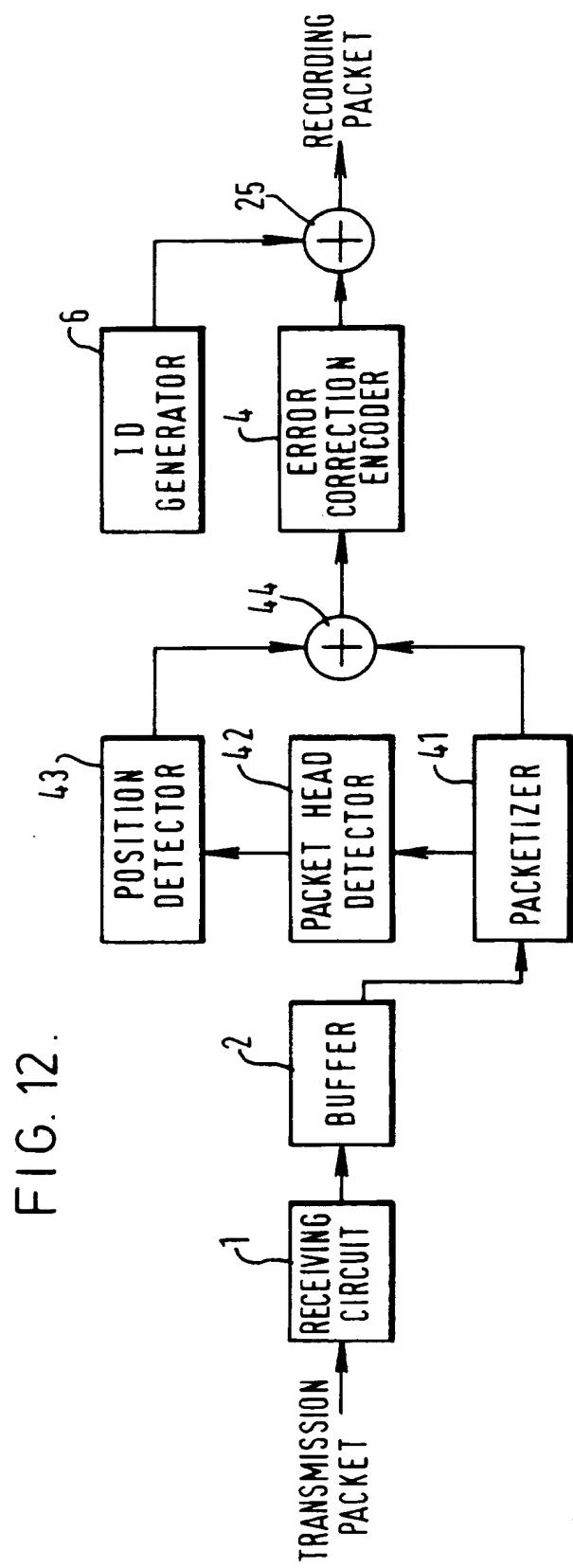
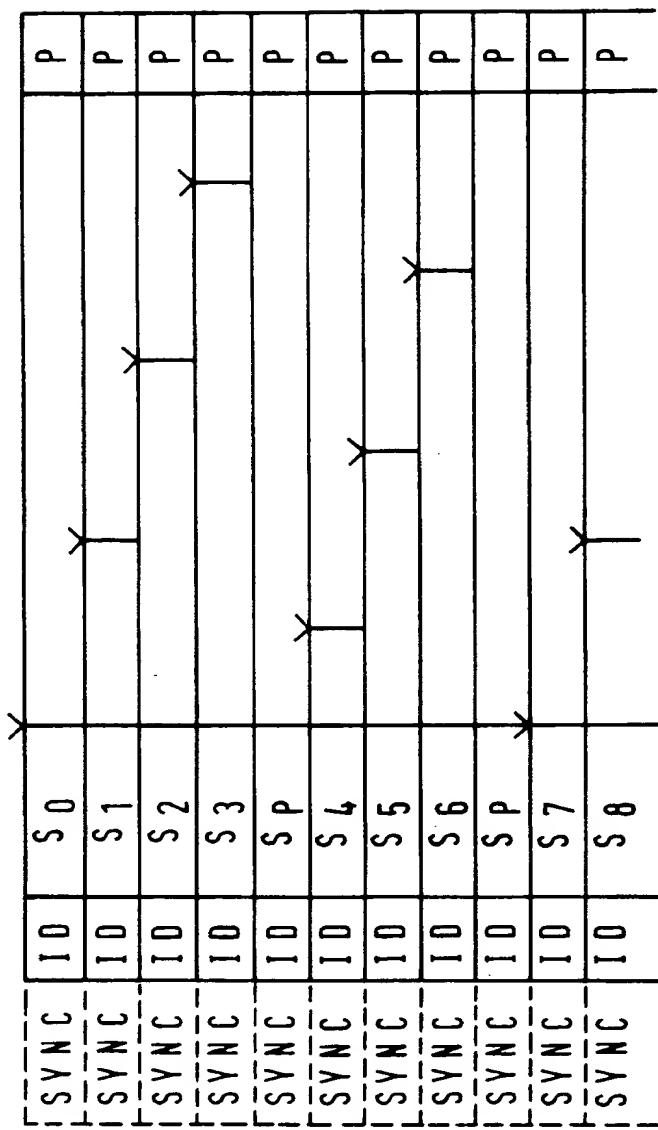


FIG. 13. RECORDING PACKET



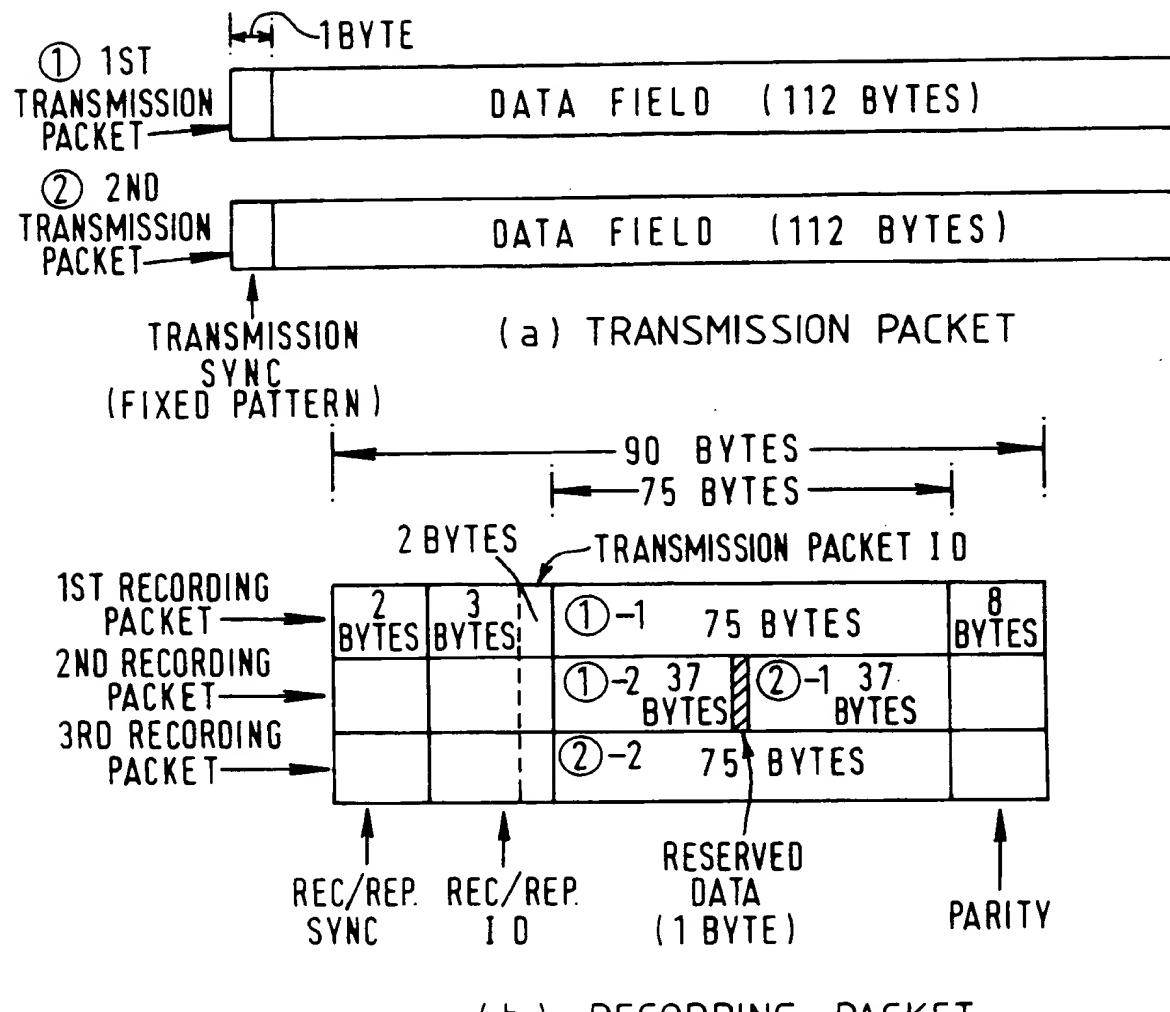
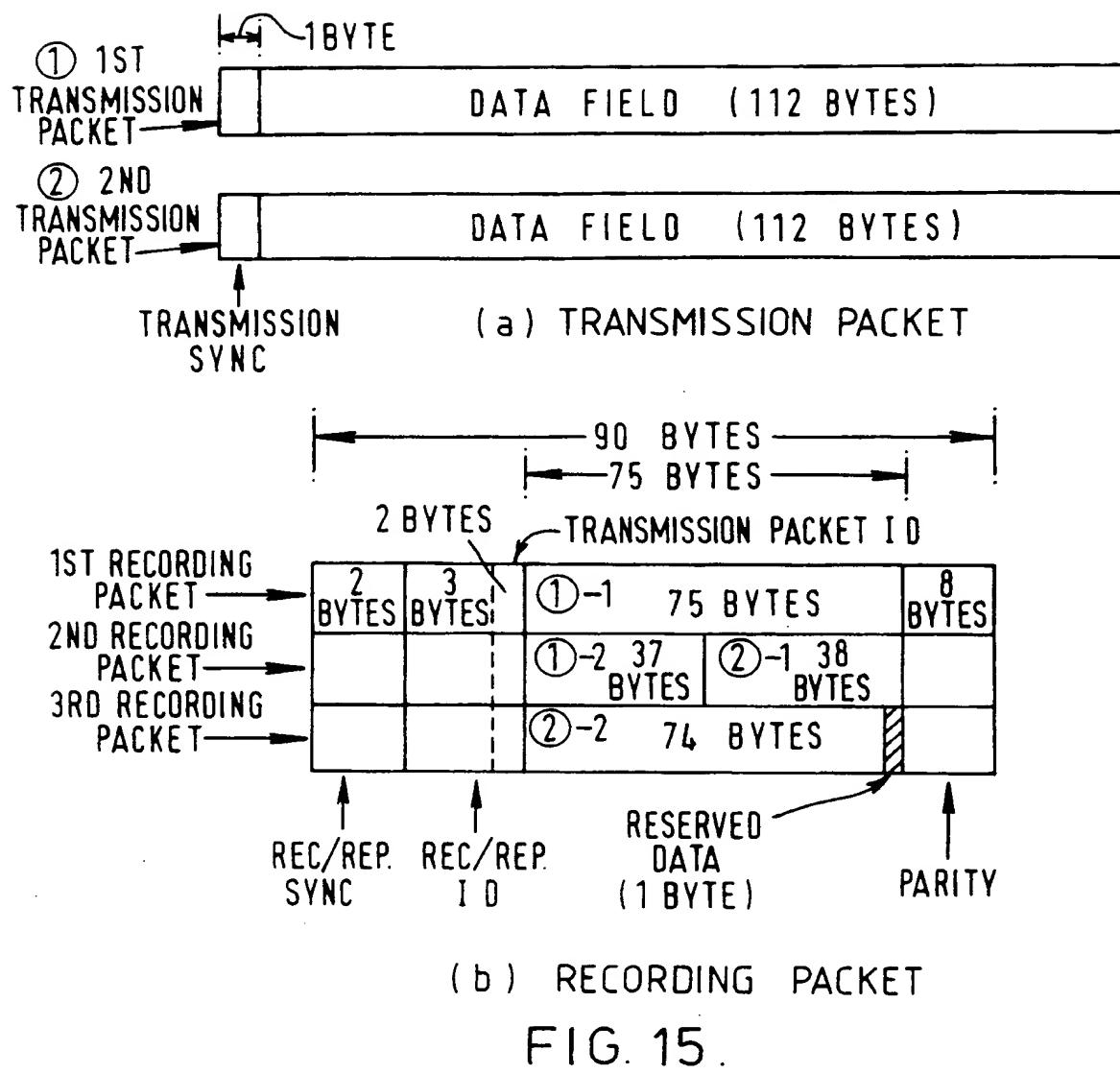
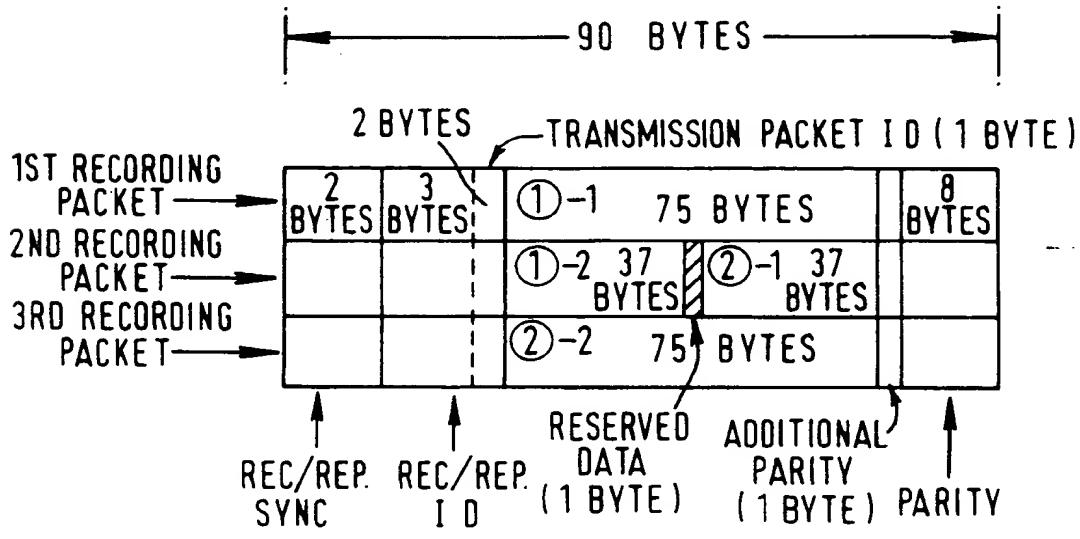
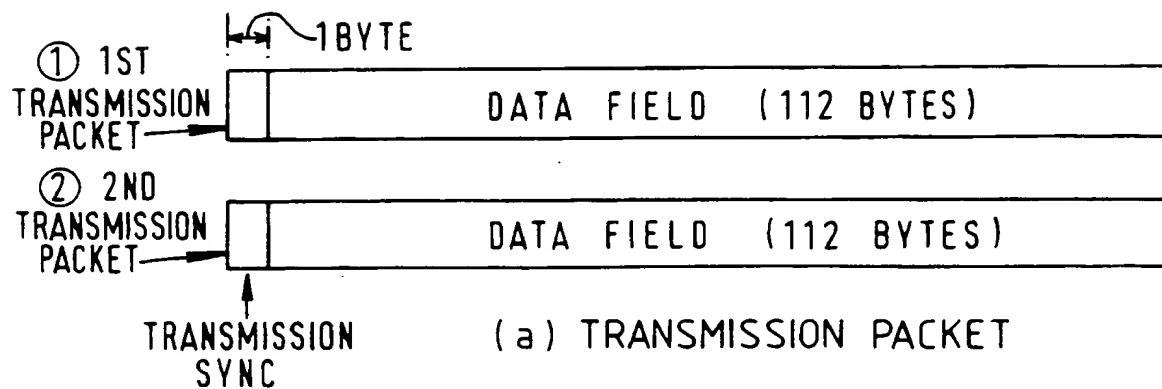


FIG. 14.





(b) RECORDING PACKET

FIG. 16.

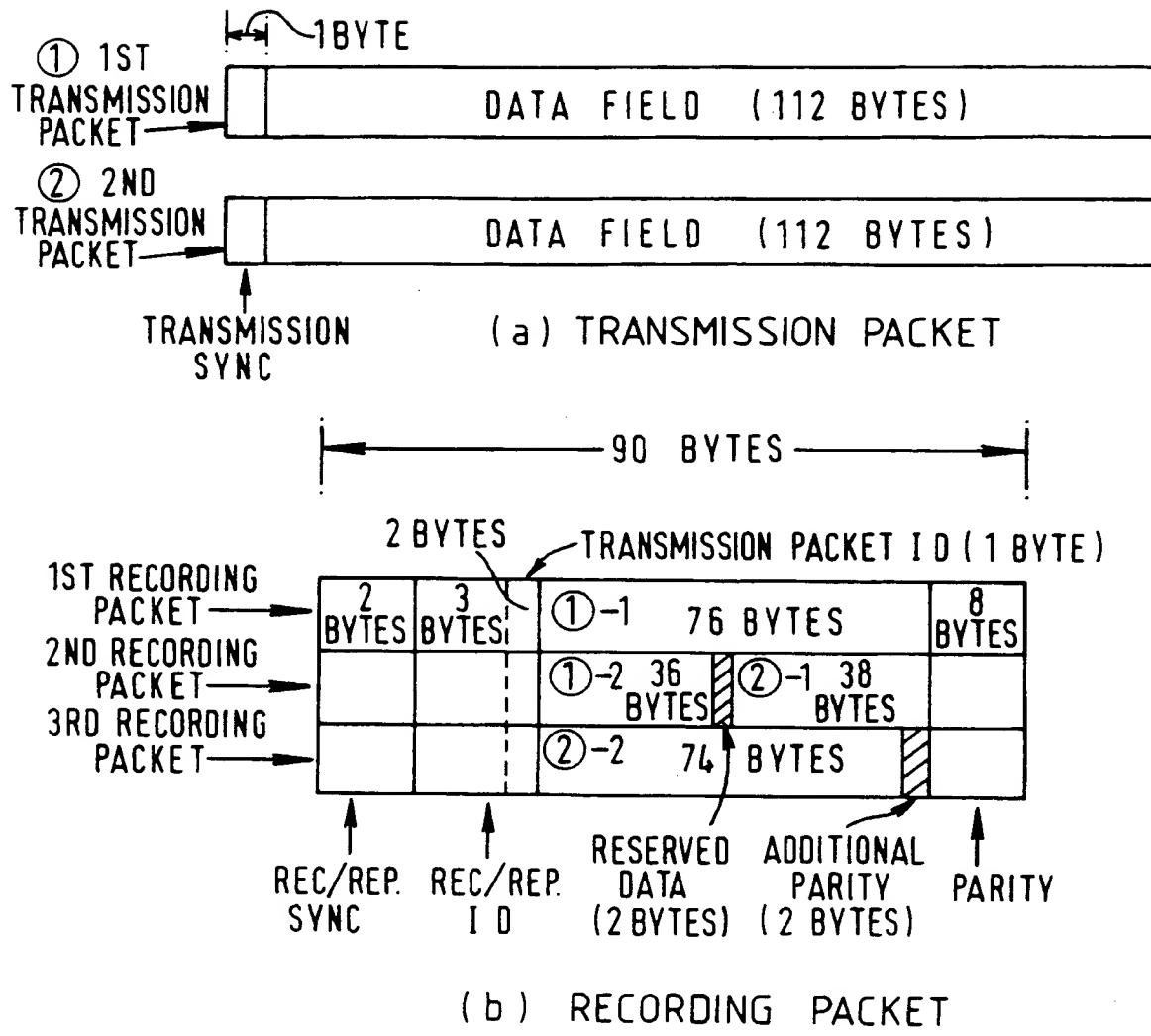
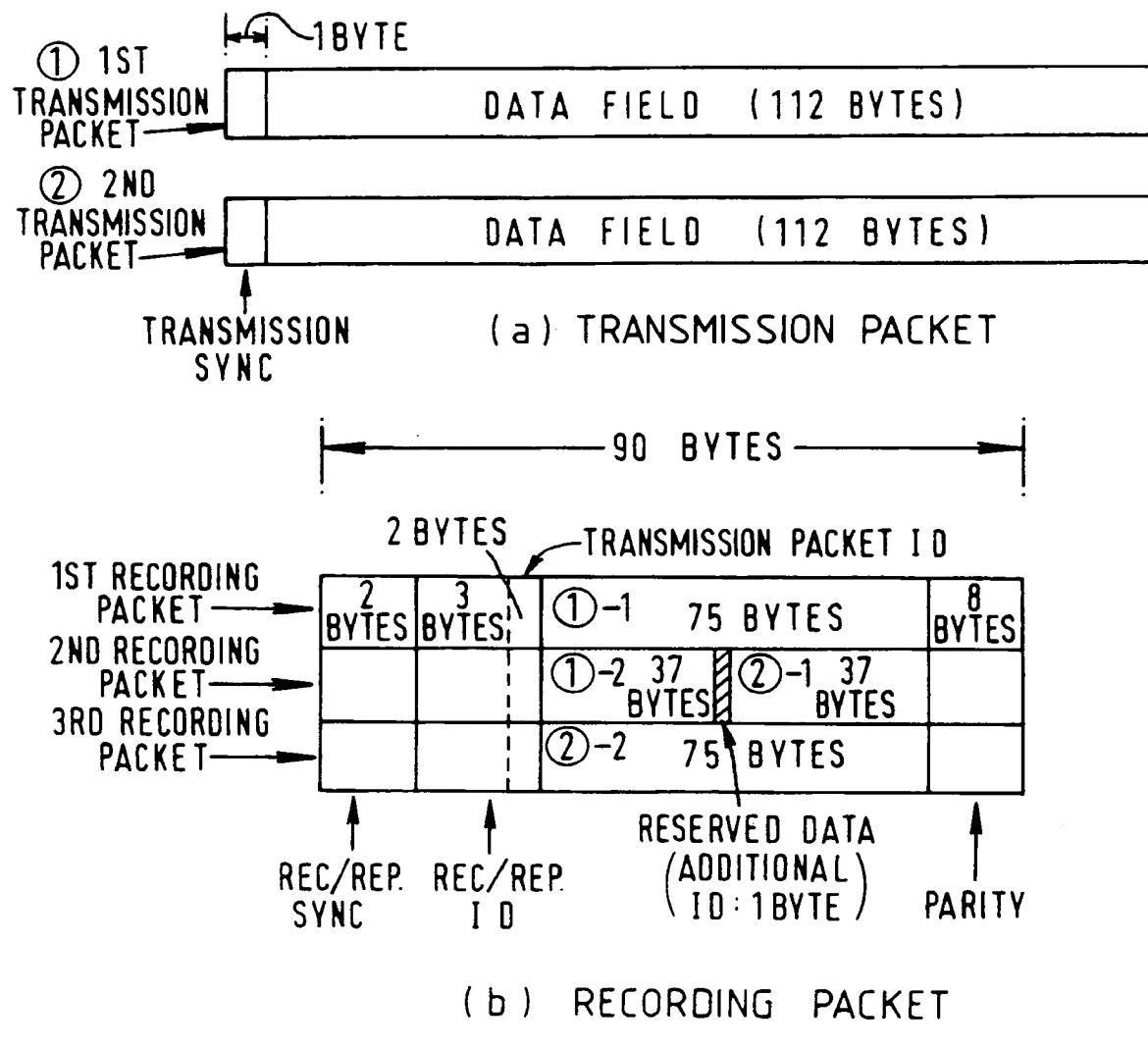


FIG. 17.



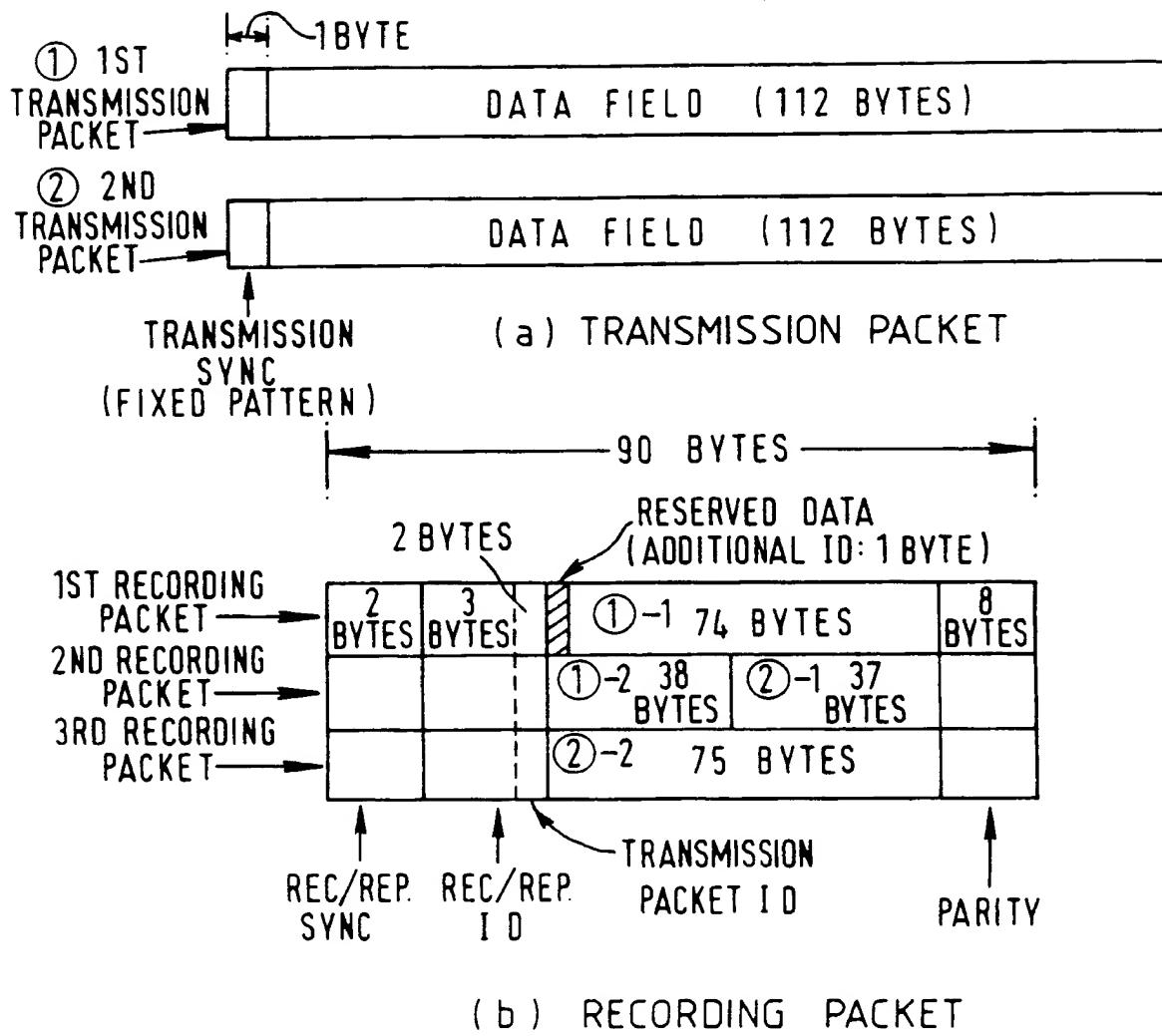


FIG. 19.

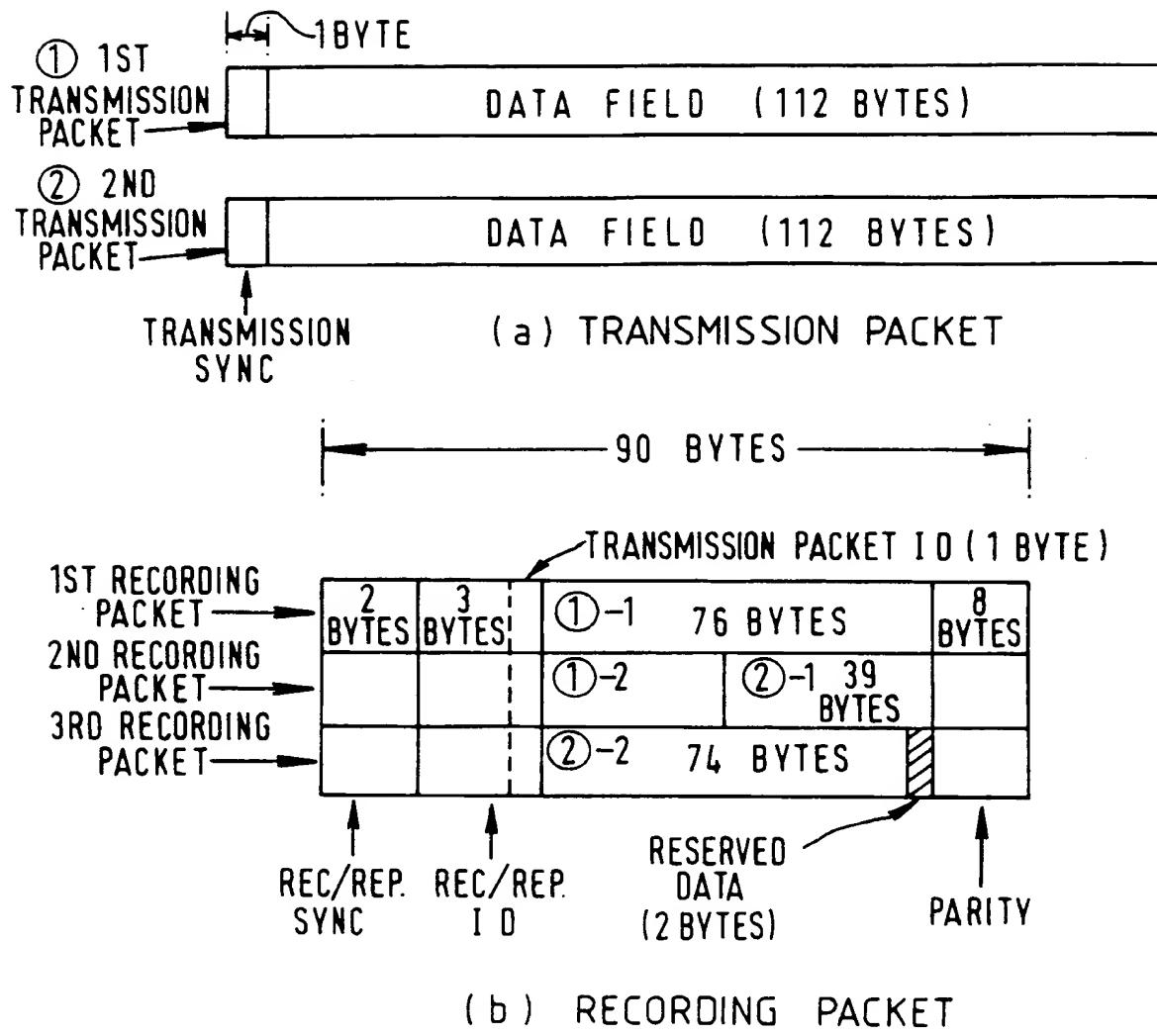


FIG. 20.

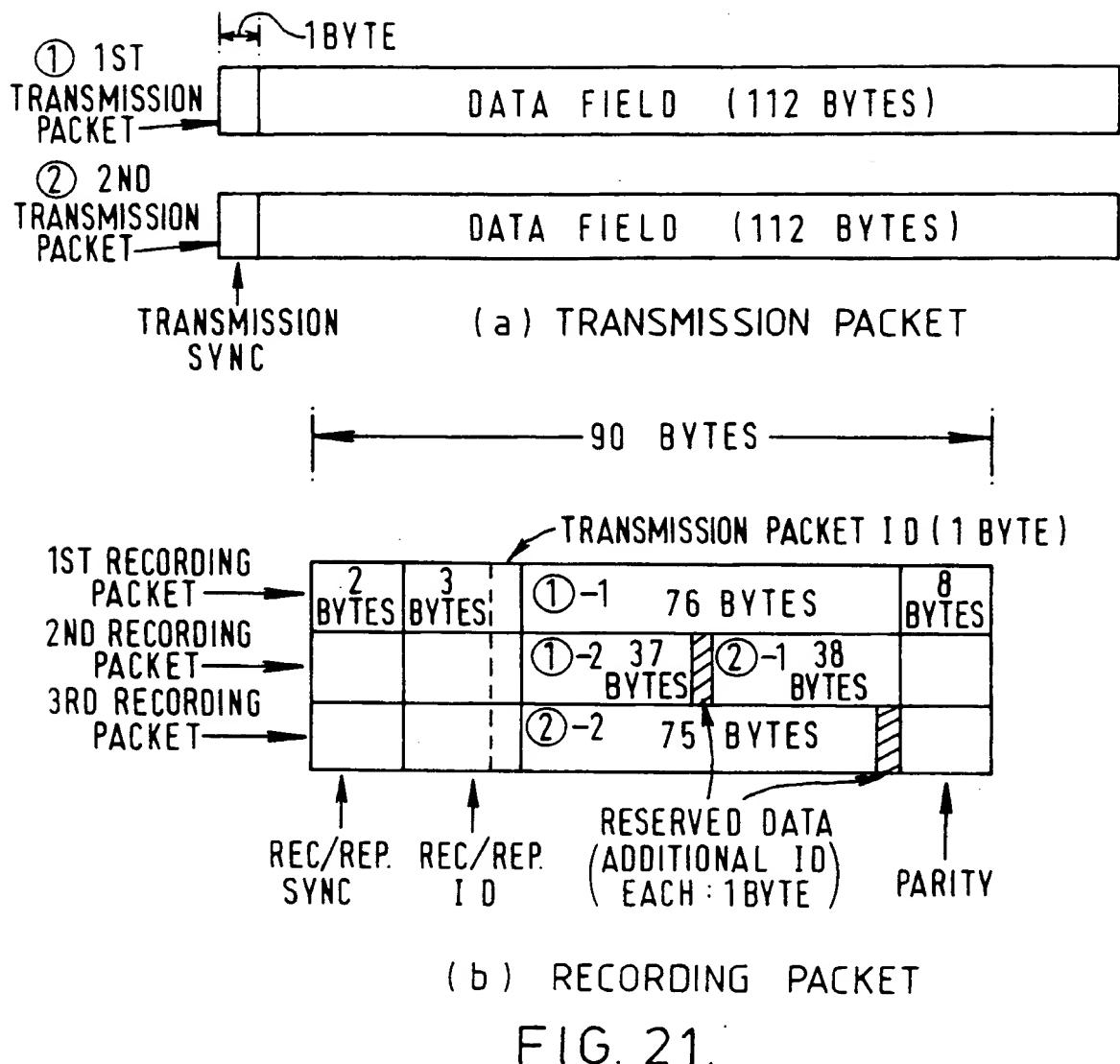
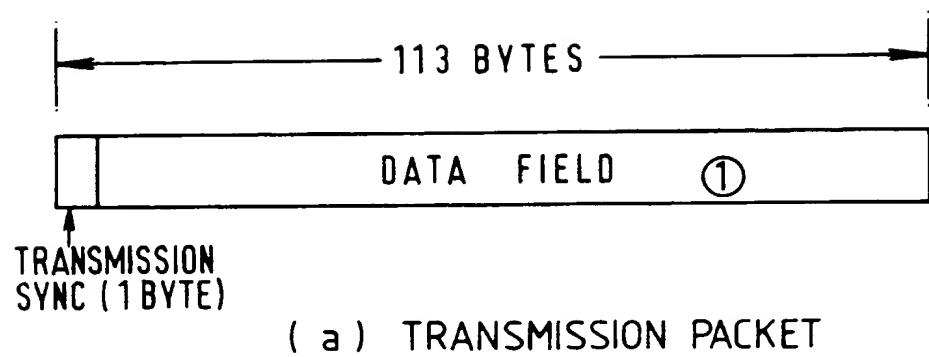
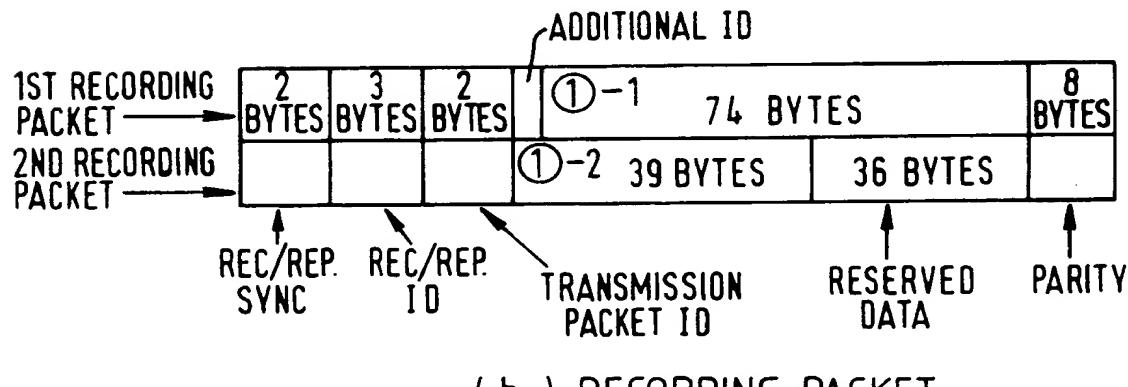


FIG. 21.



(a) TRANSMISSION PACKET



(b) RECORDING PACKET

FIG. 22.

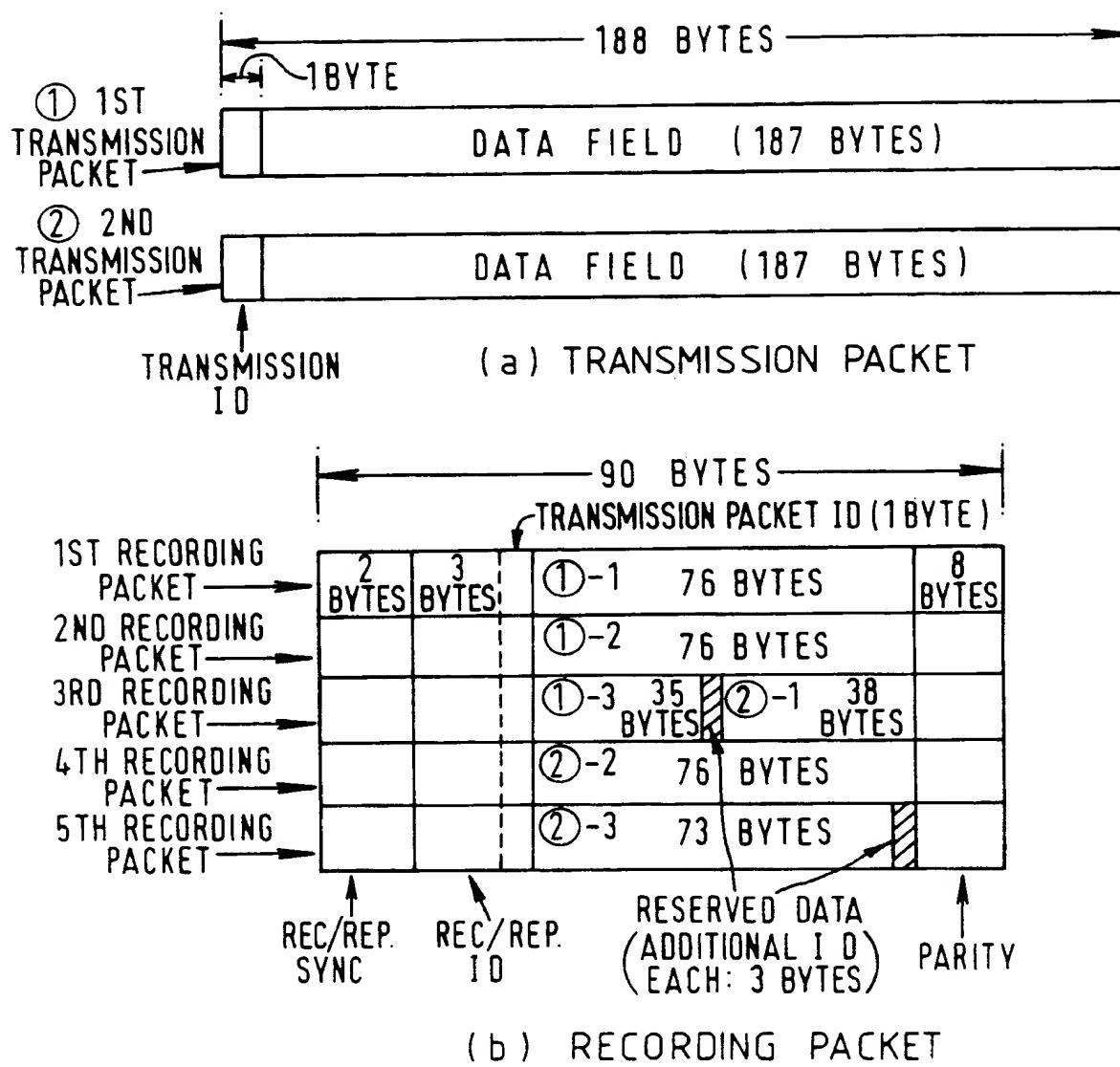


FIG. 23 .

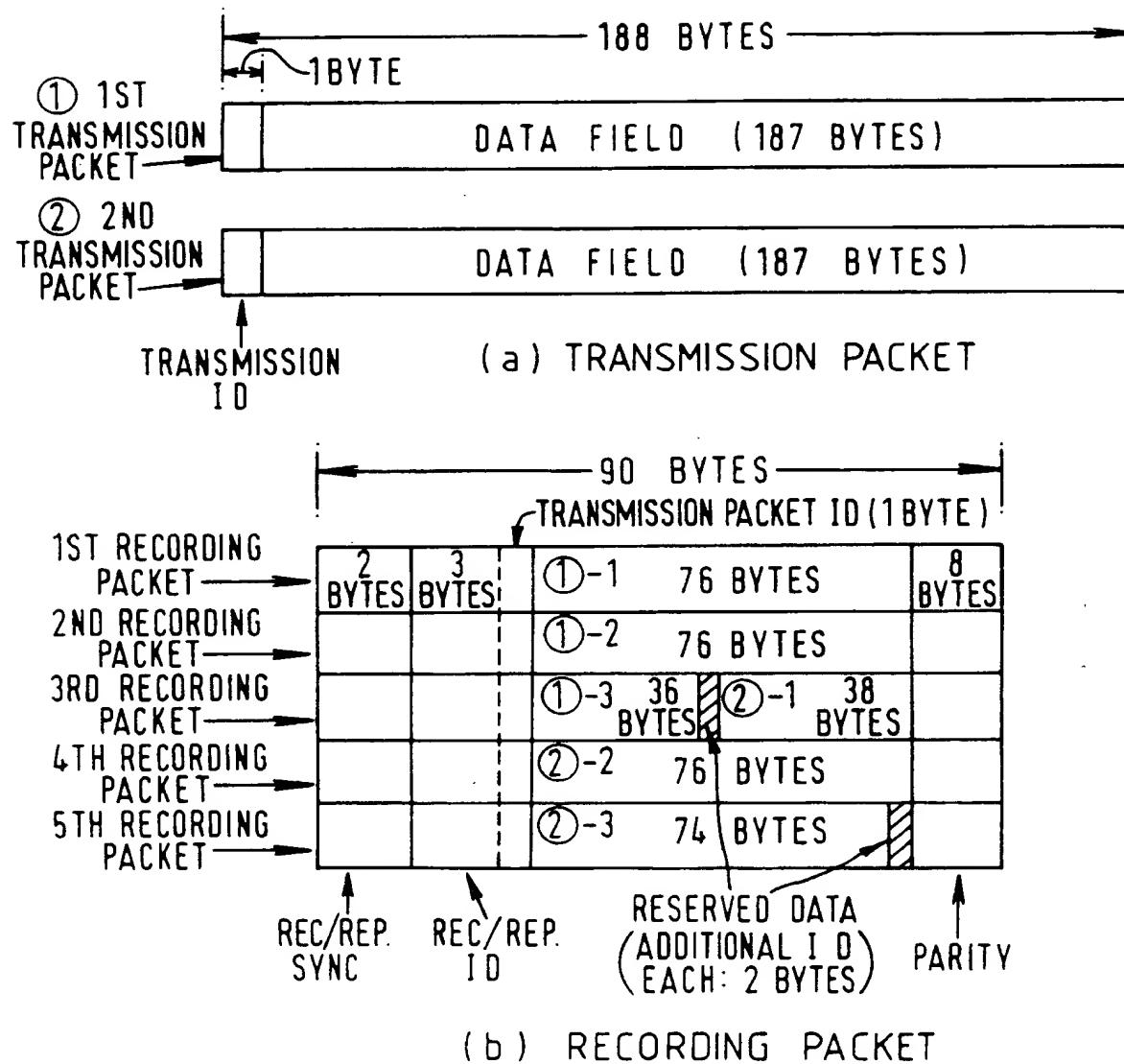


FIG. 24.

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)



(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
 14.08.1996 Bulletin 1996/33

(51) Int Cl. 6: H04N 5/926, G11B 20/10,
 H04L 1/00, G11B 20/12

(43) Date of publication A2:
 05.04.1995 Bulletin 1995/14

(21) Application number: 94307192.8

(22) Date of filing: 30.09.1994

(84) Designated Contracting States:
 DE FR GB NL

(30) Priority: 30.09.1993 JP 245430/93

(71) Applicant: KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA
 Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken 210 (JP)

(72) Inventor: Shimoda, Kenji,
 c/o Intellectual Property Div.
 Minato-ku, Tokyo (JP)

(74) Representative: Muir, Ian R. et al
 HASELTINE LAKE & CO.
 Hazlitt House
 28 Southampton Buildings
 Chancery Lane
 London WC2A 1AT (GB)

(54) Packet conversion apparatus and system

(57) A packet conversion apparatus includes a detector (22) for detecting heads of transmission packet signals, a packetizer (21) responsive to the detecting means for packetizing the transmission packet signals by sequentially arranging them into one or more recording packets to specify positions of the prescribed number of transmission packets for one or more recording packets, a source (24) for supplying reserved data, and a combiner (23) for inserting the reserved data into a space of the recording packets where no transmission packet signals present.

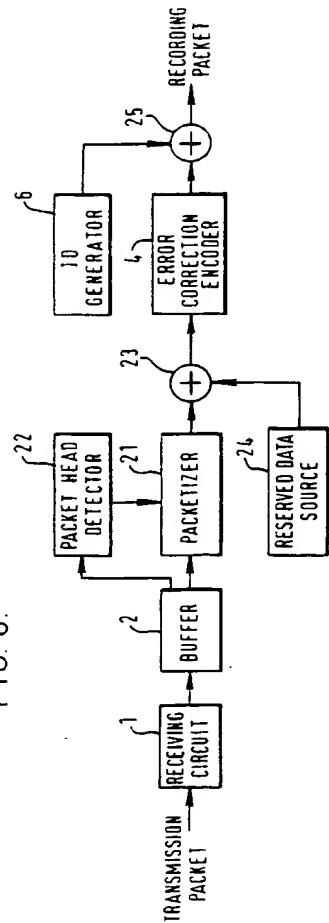


FIG. 6.



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 94 30 7192

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	US-A-4 907 101 (HEINZ-WERNER KEESEN & AL.) * column 4, line 60 - column 5, line 6; figure 2 * * column 5, line 21 - line 31 * ---	1,2,4,5	H04N5/926 G11B20/10 H04L1/00 G11B20/12
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 012, no. 238 (P-726), 7 July 1988 & JP-A-63 029377 (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP), 8 February 1988, * abstract * ---	1,2,4,5	
X,P	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 018, no. 174 (E-1530), 24 March 1994 & JP-A-05 344162 (CANON INC), 24 December 1993, * abstract * ---	1,4	
X,D	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 016, no. 312 (E-1230), 9 July 1992 & JP-A-04 086181 (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 18 March 1992, * abstract * ---	3,6	
E	EP-A-0 637 174 (VICTOR COMPANY OF JAPAN, LIMITED) * column 19, line 32 - line 47 * ---	3,6	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) H04N G11B H04L
X,P	EP-A-0 579 075 (GENERAL INSTRUMENT CORPORATION) * column 8, line 23 - line 55 * -----	3,6	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
BERLIN	14 May 1996	Gerard, E	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone	T : theory or principle underlying the invention		
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category	E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date		
A : technological background	D : document cited in the application		
O : non-written disclosure	L : document cited for other reasons		
P : intermediate document	& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		